

JW, JNS, PH, HR2

7/24/71

Mr. Tom Kelley, Asst. Dir.
U.S. Secret Service
1800 G. St., NW, #845
Washington, D.C.

Dear Tom,

Your letter of July 20 does not really respond to mine of June 10 and leaves unanswered other question I have asked. In it you say your controls 705 and 782 are the follow-ups to 767. I have been to the Archives, obtained copies, and they are not follow-ups but, although involving the same people, deal with other matters. The follow-up I seek deals with the report Oswald was some kind of government informant, not with alleged plots to kill Castro. The information I gave you that the contents of this report were immediately phoned to the Commission comes from a Commission memorandum which states this explicitly. I have loaned my copy to someone, but I believe it says you did the phoning. I would appreciate it if you could provide or refer me to the information I seek, not what I do not seek. And I certainly would hate to have to write, when I return to that writing, that the Secret Service had no further interest in the report that the man accused of killing the President it was protecting was some kind of government informant.

I have asked to be able to see the 17 stills John Rush supplied. Your control 703 says he gave them to the Secret Service and has you personally involved in that investigation. It could not be more explicit on the point of my interest, "...Oswald and two other subjects passing out...circulars..." These are not at the Archives. Whether I see them at the Archives or in your office is immaterial to me, but I would like to be able to see them soon. Will you please tell me when and where this will be possible?

You have not responded to my letter asking for an accurate accounting of the handling of the autopsy film. I returned to this in the third paragraph of my letter of the 16th. This leaves me in the position, when I write of that, of deciding whether you or Rankin or either were truthful. I would much prefer to be able to write fully and accurately and not to have to report conflict in statements, especially on a subject like this. What I now can learn and therefore say seems to depend upon what you can provide. If you do not provide it, and when my requests for it extend over so many years, there is little else I will be able to write and I will have to set forth the conflict as the records I have been able to obtain leave it.

Very few writers can or will take the time and make the effort I do to learn the truth. All officials make that cost too much, waste too much time. The inevitable result is such sick stuff as you will find in The Nation of the 19th, where Fred Cook, an established writer with a good reputation, says, in effect, that the Secret Service set the President up for the assassination. Needless, wrongful secrecy, the withholding of information, is what inspires this kind of writing, these kinds of suspicions.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg